



**Lori Lightfoot**  
Mayor

**Department of Police · City of Chicago**  
3510 S. Michigan Avenue · Chicago, Illinois 60653

**Charlie Beck**  
Interim Superintendent of Police

July 2, 2020

**Via Email:**

Matt Chapman  
Chicago Reporter  
[matt@mchap.io](mailto:matt@mchap.io)

**RE: NOTICE OF RESPONSE TO FOIA REQUEST**  
**FOIA FILE NO.: P587120**

Dear Matt Chapman:

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) is in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, received June 18, 2020 for the following:

*"A copy of all memos, emails, communications, notes, documents, tickets, messages with details or info that include any of the following text.*

*Additionally, include all attachments and full communication chains of each email.*

*"chicagoreporter.com/chicago-police-arrested-more-people-for-protesting-than-forlooting-in-early-days-of-unrest-contradicting-original-claims"*

*"chicago reporter"*

*"the chicago reporter"*

*"matt chapman"*

*"mchap.io"*

*"david eads"*

*"eads"*

*"josh mcghee"*

*"chicagoreporter"*

*"1,258"*

"1258"

"1,128"

"1128"

"699"

"empirical data"

"lucy parsons labs"

"lucyparsonslabs"

*Please limit the scope of this request between 2020-05-25 and the date of processing this request."*

As permitted by 5 ILCS 140/3(e), the time was extended in order to conduct a thorough search for these records. Your request was reviewed by the undersigned in collaboration with the Department's Bureau of Technical Services Information Services Division. It was determined that your request is unduly burdensome as currently written and as a result, your request is denied.

It was determined that your request is unduly burdensome as currently written as it is too broad. Section 3(g) of FOIA provides that "requests for all records falling within a category shall be complied with unless compliance with the request would be unduly burdensome for the complying public body and there is no way to narrow the request and the burden on the public body outweighs the public interest in the information." 5 ILCS 140/3(g). Without direction from you as to which specific records you seek, such an endeavor would pose an undue burden on the operations of this department. As the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor has noted (see 2017 PAC 47756, issued June 20, 2017), Illinois courts have held, "[a] request to inspect or copy must reasonably identify a public record[.]" *Chicago Tribune Co. v. Dept. of Financial and Professional Regulation*, 2014 IL App (4th) 130427, par. 33. A FOIA request "reasonably describes records if 'the agency is able to determine precisely what records are being requested.'" *Kowalczyk v. Dept. of Justice*, 73 F.3d 386, 388 (D.C. Cir. 1996) (quoting *Yeager v. Drug Enforcement Admin.*, 678 F.2d 315, 326 (D.C. Cir. 1982)). Please be advised that CPD does not have any automated mechanism by which to track, query, or limit a search of records for memos, emails, communications, notes, documents, tickets, and messages categorically as your request is seeking. Therefore, this task represents an unduly burdensome action upon this Department.

In addition, your request for emails is unduly burdensome as currently written. In order to effectively run an email search, the Department's Bureau of Technical Services Information Services Division needs (1) the email address(es) or employee name(s) of the account(s) you wish searched; (2) key words you wish to search for; and (3) the timeframe to be searched.

At this time, your request is unduly burdensome as currently written. It should be emphasized that the Act neither requires nor allows CPD to speculate as to the details of any request; this information can only be provided by the requester. Pursuant to Section 3(g) of FOIA, we would like to extend to you an opportunity to modify your request to make it more manageable. CPD encourages you to review your request to ascertain the specific details to your query. Unless and until a new FOIA request is submitted

that specifies and narrows the records you are seeking, CPD will be unable to provide further records. Once this is determined, a new FOIA request can be submitted to CPD, specifying the records you would like CPD to provide.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me at the following address:

Chicago Police Department  
Attention: Freedom of Information  
Office of Legal Affairs, Unit 114  
3510 S. Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60653  
[foia@chicagopolice.org](mailto:foia@chicagopolice.org)

You have a right of review by the Illinois Attorney General's Public Access Counselor, who can be contacted at 500 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62706 or by telephone at 877-299-3642. You may also seek judicial review in the Circuit Court of Cook County under 5 ILCS 140/11.

Sincerely,

A. Marlan  
Freedom of Information Act Officer  
Chicago Police Department  
Office of Legal Affairs, Unit 114  
3510 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60653